

allurements of society life, so termed, have books and papers and be on pleasant terms with kind and honest neighbors. His aims were rapidly materializing in this picturesque region, famed for its bluegrass, fertile heavily timbered mountains, pure streams, cool, crystal springs, and quiet sheltered dales. His was the sagacity to perceive that for all the elements of true, happy prosperity for new beginners, no place could excel Elk as it then was. Therefore it was a real mysterious providence that a person so much needed in our county, and in such a sense the right man in the place after his own heart, with success just in reach, should be stricken with insidious disease, slowly pine away and at last die. His death occurred in 1833. On an eminence overlooking his home, where he frequently passed Sabbath evenings in summer with his wife and little daughter, his grave was made, and he now waits for the Redeemer to come, as he has promised to do to those who love his appearing.

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### SAMPSON L. MATHEWS.

Among the citizens of prominence in the early history of Pocahontas County was Sampson Lockhart Mathews, the first county surveyor. His grandfather was Sampson Mathews, one of the early residents of Staunton, whose wife was a Miss Lockhart, hence the name borne by members of the family connexion. She had a sister married to a Mr Nelson, and another married to a Mr Clark. Thus the Montgomerys and the Mathews became related.

The subject of this sketch was the second son of Sampson Mathews, Junior, and Mary Warwick, daughter of Jacob and Mary Warwick, of Clover Lick. Early in life he manifested an intense desire for an education, and his wishes were gratified. Much of the time he passed in studies he was under the care of Dr John McElhenny, who established and for so many years conducted the renowned Lewisburg Academy.

Upon reaching his majority in 1821, young Mathews and his father, who had become a widower, moved to the farm on Swago now owned by Mrs Mary McClin-tic, his only daughter. Father and son lived in this manner for several years.

In 1825 young Mathews was married to Miss Nancy Edgar, daughter of Thomas Edgar and Ann Matthews, whose farm afterwards became the site now occupied by the town of Ronceverte. Mrs Edgar was the daughter of Archie Mathews, whose residence is now known as the Alexander farm, three miles from Lewisburg.

He continued his residence on the Swago farm until 1834. In the meantime he received his appointment as County Surveyor. In a letter written by the Hon J. Howe Peyton, in his time one of the most eminent members of the Staunton bar, mention is made of the first sessions of the Pocahontas Court, and of the appointment of Mr Mathews. This letter is to be found in Mr Peyton's biography, an interesting volume recently prepared and published by his son, Col. J. T. Peyton of Staunton.

Soon after their marriage Mr and Mrs Mathews gath-

ered a Sabbath school in their home. Mrs McCollam sent her children, Isaac, Ruth, and James. William McNeil sent Jonathan, Claiborne, Jane, and Elizabeth and Joshua Buckley was one of the scholars also. Mr Mathews would read a chapter and offer prayer. Mrs Mathews did most of the teaching. The exercises would open at ten o'clock, and have a recess at noon. In the yard was an arbor formed by a luxuriant hop vine. Under its shade the children would sit and enjoy their luncheon, brought from their homes. After recess the school would meet and continue two or three hours. The summers of 1826 and 1827 were occupied in this useful service.

In 1834 Mr Mathews purchased property in Millpoint from Valentine Cackley and James Cackley, and resided there the remainder of his life.

In his religious sentiments he was a Presbyterian from conviction, and for years was the sole representative of the New School branch. These schools have consolidated since the time of his death on terms of mutual respect and Christian confidence, and hence the wisdom of his position has been vindicated by results.

He was in declining health for quite a while, and awaited his decease with a calmness and self possession that was the wonder of many and the admiration of others. His arrangements were calmly made, his instructions were given, and his requests were expressed as if all was a matter of course.

He died September 23, 1854, and was buried in a place selected by himself. It commands a lovely prospect in the midst of a landscape famed for beautiful